CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~E~~expandable intragastric balloon intended to be implanted inside the stomach of a patient so as to reduce the volume of the stomach in order to treat obesity, which balloon ~~(1)~~ is equipped with at least one first flexible pocket ~~(2)~~ capable of changing from a folded position to an expanded position by introducing an inflation fluid into the first pouch ~~(2)~~, wherein said expanded position gives the balloon its functional form, ~~characterised in that it~~ comprisinges means for ballasting ~~(3)~~ said balloon, enabling the balloon ~~(1)~~ to be substantially weighted so as to improve ~~its~~ the positioning of the balloon in the stomach.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ are structurally integrated with the balloon ~~(1)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that~~ wherein the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ are located inside said first pouch ~~(2)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 3, characterised in that~~ wherein the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ comprise at least one solid dense body ~~(3S)~~ capable of forming a ballast.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~of claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ comprise a plurality of solid dense bodies ~~(3S)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~of claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solid dense bodies ~~(3S)~~ are connected to one another so as to limit their relative mobility.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~ claim 6, ~~characterised in~~ wherein ~~that~~ the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ comprise spacers, arranged between two consecutive solid bodies ~~(3S)~~ so as to prevent shocks.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 3, characterised in that~~ wherein the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ include at least one absorbent body ~~(3A)~~ capable of forming a ballast in the presence of moisture.

9. (Currently Amended) The iIntragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the absorbent body ~~(3A)~~ is formed by a sponge or a foam.

10. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sponge is made of a polyvinyl alcohol-based material.

11. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~the~~ ballasting means ~~(3)~~ include a plurality of absorbent bodies ~~(3A)~~ formed by super-absorbent particles of sodium polyacrylate polymer.

12. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2, characterised in that it includes~~ further comprising a second flexible pouch ~~(5)~~, said second flexible pouch being arranged so that it contains the first flexible pouch ~~(2)~~, with the ballasting means ~~(3)~~ being contained in said second flexible pouch ~~(5)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to one~~ of claims 1 ~~to 12, characterised in that it~~further comprisinges at least one sheath ~~(8)~~ capable of containing the ballasting means ~~(3)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 13, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sheath ~~(8)~~ comprises two ends ~~(8A, 8B)~~, which sheath ~~(8)~~ is secured to the balloon ~~(1)~~ near at least one of said ends ~~(8A, 8B)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of claim 14, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein one end of the sheath ~~(8)~~ extends outside the balloon ~~(1)~~ to form a pull tab ~~(9)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of~~ claims 13, ~~to 15, characterised in that~~ wherein the sheath ~~(8)~~ is deformable.

17. (Currently Amended) The Iintragastric balloon ~~according to~~ of ~~any one of~~ claims 13, ~~to 16, characterised in that~~ wherein the sheath ~~(8)~~ is made of a biocompatible material.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to any one~~ of claims 1, ~~to 17, characterised in that~~ wherein the surface of the first pouch ~~(2)~~ is coated, ~~at least partially,~~ with an impermeable parylene coating.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~of ~~claim~~ 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the inflation fluid is a gas.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~I~~intragastric balloon ~~according to~~of ~~claim~~ 19, ~~characterised in that~~wherein ~~the~~ ballasting means ~~(3)~~ include a liquid ~~(11)~~ intended to be introduced into the first pouch ~~(2)~~ so as to form a ballast.

21. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se of an absorbent body ~~(3A)~~ to form a ballast for an expandable intragastric balloon ~~(1)~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se ~~according to~~ of claim 21, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the absorbent body ~~(3A)~~ comprises a super-absorbent material based on sodium polyacrylate.

23. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se ~~according to~~of ~~claim~~ 21, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the absorbent body ~~(3A)~~ comprises a sponge or a foam.

24. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se ~~according to~~ of claim 23, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the material forming the sponge comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

25. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se of solid dense bodies ~~(3S)~~ as ballasting means for or in an expandable intragastric balloon ~~(1)~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The u~~U~~se according to claim 25, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solid dense bodies ~~(3S)~~ comprise tungsten.

27. (New) The intragastric balloon of claim 2, wherein the ballasting means are located inside said first pouch.

28. (New) The intragastric balloon of claim 2, further comprising a second flexible pouch, said second flexible pouch being arranged so that it contains the first flexible pouch, with the ballasting means being contained in said second flexible pouch.